



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held July 12, 2005, the Board took the following action:

53-A

Supervisors Burke and Molina made the following statement:

“The Mexican Postal Service has recently unveiled a series of postage stamps that pay tribute to Mexican comic books. The second set in the series of postage stamps, which has recently been discontinued, commemorates a comic book character named ‘Memin Pinguin’ in five poses. Unfortunately, this character was historically drawn in a manner which is racially insensitive and highly offensive to the international Black community.

“Having expressed these concerns to the Mexican Consul General in Los Angeles, we appreciate the Mexican Government’s demonstrated responsiveness and sensitivity when they promptly agreed to discontinue further production.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried (Supervisor Yaroslavsky being absent), the Board instructed the Executive Officer of the Board to send a five-signature letter to the Mexican Consul General in Los Angeles, acknowledging the Mexican government’s responsiveness and cultural sensitivity, by agreeing to immediately discontinue the issuance of the controversial “Memin Pinguin” postage stamps; and emphasize that the Board looks forward to continued sensitivity by the Mexican government in the future toward the Black community, as well as the Board's willingness to continue a productive relationship with the Mexican Consulate for the benefit of the residents throughout the County.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel

Letter sent to:

Consul General of Mexico